

No.2016/E&R/2(12)/2

New Delhi, dated 20.02.2017

The Secretary/HE,
Department of Higher Education
Ministry of HRD,
Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi.

Sub: Creating Awareness for Innovation Challenges of Indian Railways

Hon'ble Prime Minister launched Innovation Challenges at Rail Vikas Shivir, Surajkund on 20.11.2016. The Challenges are open to all Indian Resident Nationals and Companies/Institutions. This is in pursuance of announcement by Hon'ble Minister for Railways in the Railway Budget, 2016 for setting up of 'Innovation grants to employees, start-ups and small businesses'. Under the 'Navrachna' initiative, Indian Railways seek solutions to its most critical problems through annual Innovation Challenges. Prizes have been announced for deserving ideas.

These challenges are aimed at promoting innovation in our country by focusing on specific problems being faced by Indian Railways. These challenges will be of interest to faculty and students of institutions of higher learning in the country. In view of Directorate of Education being at the forefront of promotion of higher learning in the country, Directorate of Education may bring to the notice of institutions under its control, these challenges for promotion of culture of innovations. Indian Railways is conducting the following six challenges for the current year:

1. Innovation Challenge for 'Design of Wagons for efficient loading and transportation of new traffic commodities'.
2. Innovation Challenge for 'Easy Accessibility to Trains from Low Level Platforms'.
3. Innovation Challenge for 'New Idea/ Suggestion to improve the working of Indian Railways'.
4. Innovation Challenge for 'Increasing Passenger Carrying Capacity of Coaches of Indian Railways'.

Innovation Challenge for Developing New Digital Capabilities at the Stations of Indian Railways.

6. Innovation Challenge for 'Identifying New Non-Fare Revenue sources for Indian Railways'.

Details of Innovation Challenges viz., participation procedure, terms & conditions, eligibility, guidelines etc are available at website 'innovate.mygov.in'. Last date for submitting the online entries is 20.05.2017 upto 6pm IST.

Directorate of Education is, requested to widely publicize the Railway Innovation Challenges among the students/faculty/staff of all the institutes/organizations under its ambit.

(Shailendra N. Jaiswal)
Executive Director Efficiency & Research
Railway Board